

**From:** Kelly, Albert  
**To:** Coleman, Sam  
**Cc:** Edlund, Carl; Gray, David  
**Subject:** Re: Final follow up... Inspections of SJRWP - questions  
**Date:** Friday, September 8, 2017 5:17:55 PM  
**Attachments:** image007.png  
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Thank you. Please let me know what is concluded here

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 8, 2017, at 5:00 PM, Coleman, Sam <[Coleman.Sam@epa.gov](mailto:Coleman.Sam@epa.gov)> wrote:

I sent to Carl and David for follow up.

Samuel Coleman, P. E.,  
Deputy Regional Administrator

214.665.2100 Ofc  
214.665. 3110 Desk  
214.665.2016 Cell

[Coleman.sam@epa.gov](mailto:Coleman.sam@epa.gov)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Scott Jones" <[sjones@galvbay.org](mailto:sjones@galvbay.org)>  
**To:** "Miller, Gary" <[Miller.Gary@epa.gov](mailto:Miller.Gary@epa.gov)>, "Walters, Donn" <[walters.donn@epa.gov](mailto:walters.donn@epa.gov)>, "Sanchez, Carlos" <[sanchez.carlos@epa.gov](mailto:sanchez.carlos@epa.gov)>, "Edlund, Carl" <[Edlund.Carl@epa.gov](mailto:Edlund.Carl@epa.gov)>, "Coleman, Sam" <[Coleman.Sam@epa.gov](mailto:Coleman.Sam@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Bob Stokes" <[bstokes@galvbay.org](mailto:bstokes@galvbay.org)>, "rock owens" <[Rock.Owens@cao.hctx.net](mailto:Rock.Owens@cao.hctx.net)>, "Allen, Bob (PCS)" <[Bob.Allen@pcs.hctx.net](mailto:Bob.Allen@pcs.hctx.net)>, "jyoung@txhea.org" <[jyoung@txhea.org](mailto:jyoung@txhea.org)>, "crystal.taylor@iceq.texas.gov" <[crystal.taylor@iceq.texas.gov](mailto:crystal.taylor@iceq.texas.gov)>, "Katie.Delbecq@iceq.texas.gov" <[Katie.Delbecq@iceq.texas.gov](mailto:Katie.Delbecq@iceq.texas.gov)>  
**Subject:** Final follow up... Inspections of SJRWP - questions

Dear Gary, Donn, Carlos, Carl, and Sam-  
My apologies for the multiple emails. I forgot one other important item...

Drone footage from sometime since the weekend captured the attached image. If you look in the middle of the image, you see bluish looking material of some sort. When I first saw it, I thought it was liner, but when I zoom in, it appears to be a viscous bluish material. It's hard to tell.

I hope that you have been able to confirm what that material is.

Can you please add that to my inquiry list from the emails below?

Thanks-  
Scott

**Scott A. Jones**  
Director of Advocacy

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1100 Hercules Avenue, Suite 200, Houston, TX, 77058

<image001.jpg>  
 <image003.png> 

*Protecting the natural resources of Galveston Bay since 1987*  
<image005.png>

Dear Gary, Donn, Carlos, Carl, and Sam-  
I am sending a second follow up to my original email...

As a member of the SJRWP Community Awareness Committee, Galveston Bay Foundation would greatly appreciate a response from EPA to our inquiries as to the condition of the cap in the wake of Harvey flooding and the EPA response/investigations/sampling/results to date. If you are not yet able to answer these questions, can you acknowledge that EPA management has received this second follow up message as well as my prior two September 7<sup>th</sup> messages below?

My new questions:  
I understand that contractors are currently placing rock on the cap, including the NW corner where there is no liner. We certainly appreciate a quick response to shore up the damaged temporary cap. However, we are concerned that this may preclude getting a clear picture of any damages the cap incurred and possible loss of waste material to the environment. Therefore, can you tell me if complete inspections and waste/sediment sampling occurred before areas of the cap were covered up?

As of now, I must assume that the waste material in the NW corner, up to 43,700 ppt, was once again exposed to the river waters and was subject to offsite migration, as we saw after lesser storms in late 2015. I hope that is not the case.

We know that EPA has many sites to investigate in the Houston area, but given this site's contents, location and the cap history we think it should rise to the top as far as response and communications. Can you please get back to me and the rest of the CAC members with status update as soon as you can?

Thank you-  
Scott

**Scott A. Jones**  
Director of Advocacy

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*Protecting the natural resources of Galveston Bay since 1987*  
<image005.png>

Hello Again Gary and Donn-

My apologies. In addition to the items below, I also meant to ask if EPA will perform, or oversee the performance, of a new elevation/bathymetry survey in the wake of Harvey.

Thanks-  
Scott

**Scott A. Jones**  
Director of Advocacy

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Dear Gary, Donn, and Katie-

I was reading the September 6<sup>th</sup> TCEQ news update about Hurricane Harvey response activities at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/news/releases/09-06-status-of-systems-in-areas-affected-by-harvey>.

I note the following text attributed to EPA/TCEQ:

*The San Jacinto Waste Pits site has a temporary armored cap designed to prevent migration of hazardous material; some areas that rock been displaced and liner is exposed. The potential responsible party has mobilized heavy equipment and is placing rock on different places on the armored cap to repair the defensive surface. The liner is in place and functional so we don't have any indication that the underlying waste materials have been exposed. If we find a breach in the exposed liner, we direct the responsible party to collect samples to determine if any materials have been released. Crews continue to surveying portions of the cap that are submerged and the EPA dive teams will survey the cap underwater when conditions allow.*

I have some questions that I hope you will answer for me:

- <!--[If IsupportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]-->How can one state that "the liner is in place" and "we don't have an indication that the underlying waste materials have been exposed" when you have not been able to completely inspect all portions of the cap?
- <!--[If IsupportLists]-->2. <!--[endif]-->How can one suggest that no waste materials have been exposed when the NW quadrant of the cap has no liner?
- <!--[If IsupportLists]-->3. <!--[endif]-->I am worried that rock will be placed over areas of the cap where there might be problems BEFORE you can complete thorough inspections. Will EPA be able to properly inspect for actual damages to the cap before portions are covered up by rock?
- <!--[If IsupportLists]-->4. <!--[endif]-->How can one tell if sampling will truly be able to assess whether toxins have been released? Are you sure you know where to sample? How do you know where floodwaters of this magnitude and variables in current vectors, may have transported any waste material? Will the sampling locations be representative of the situation?
- <!--[If IsupportLists]-->5. <!--[endif]-->I have not seen evidence of successful fish and crab tissue sampling prior to this event. I know that EPA tried to sample some killifish in the wake of the late 2015/early 2016 cap problems being discovered. Even if you had sampled some killifish, how do you know for sure that contamination had not been released, and is still being released, to fish and crab? How can you know for sure that more dioxin has not gotten into the food chain?

Can you please provide answers to these questions?

Finally, can you provide a site update, regarding inspections and findings in the wake of the flood event?

I appreciate the work you are doing.

Thanks-  
Scott

**Scott A. Jones**  
Director of Advocacy

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<Drone pits 8.jpg>